

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-07 /076 W

-----032310 130817Z /10

R 130530Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1781

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 2665

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETEL, YE, FR

SUBJECT: AL-HAMDI'S VISIT TO FRANCE

1. ON JULY 11 FOREIGN MINISTER ABDALLAH AL-ASNAJ BRIEFED ME ON PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI'S RECENT VISIT TO FRANCE WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS A GREAT PSYCHOLOGICAL SUCCESS BUT WITH FEW TANGIBLE POLITICAL RESULTS, ALTHOUGH THE FRENCH AND YEMENIS SEE EYE TO EYE ON SUCH KEY MATTERS AS DJIBOUTI AND THE SOVIET THREAT TO THE RED SEA.

2. AL-ASNAJ CONTINUED THAT ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE, HOWEVER, THE FRENCH PULLED OUT EVERY STOP INCLUDING DIRECT INTERVENTION FROM PRESIDENT VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING TO GET THE YEMENIS TO SIGN VARIOUS AGREEMENTS INCLUDING A TELECOMMUNICATION CONTRACT. (GTE HAS BEEN THE MAIN COMPETITOR FOR THIS CONTRACT AND MOST HIGH LEVEL YEMENIS WANTED IT TO BE AWARDED TO GTE.) AL-ASNAJ SAID THAT THE FRENCH PRESIDENT PUT AL-HAMDI IN A VERY EMBARRASSING POSITION BY DIRECTLY ASKING HIM WHY YEMEN WAS NOT PREPARED TO SIGN THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONTRACT AFTER OBTAINING SUCH GOOD TERMS FROM THE FRENCH. AL-HAMDI HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO
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AGREE AND INSTRUCTED THE ACCOMPANYING MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT TO SIGN. AL-ASNAJ POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT WHAT HAS BEEN SIGNED IS ONLY A LETTER OF INTENT WHICH INTER ALIA VERY CAREFULLY STATES THAT YEMEN MUST FIND THE FINANCING FROM THE CONTRACT BEFORE THE ACTUAL CONTRACT IS SIGNED. AL-ASNAJ COMMENTED THAT HE DOUBTED VERY MUCH THAT YEMEN WOULD FIND THE NECESSARY FINANCING

AND THUS HE ALSO DOUBTED THAT THE DEAL WOULD EVER BE
FORMALLY CLOSED. (IN A SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH DEPUTY
PRIME MINISTER AL-JUNAYD WHO ALSO ACCOMPANIED THE
PRESIDENT, I WAS TOLD THAT THE YARG HAS EVERY INTENTION
TO HONOR THE LETTER OF INTENT PARTICULARLY AS THE FRENCH
WERE SO FORTHCOMING WITH ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND FACILI-
TIES.)
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, TELECOMMUNICATION, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANA02665
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770248-1118
Format: TEL
From: SANA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770762/aaaachbx.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 26ed576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1876407
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AL-HAMDI'S VISIT TO FRANCE
TAGS: PFOR, ETEL, YE, FR, (HAMDI, IBRAHIM MUHAMMAD AL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/26ed576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009